

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00476 280638Z

43

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4906

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BY, US

SUBJECT: BURUNDI INTEREST IN EAST AFRICAN VISIT OF ASST SECY DAVIS

ON MY RETURN JUNE 26 FROM TRIP TO NAIROBI TO
SPEAK WITH ASST SECY DAVIS, I FOUND THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL
MANGAONA OF FONOFF (IN ABSENCE OF FONMIN WHO IS IN KINSHASA)
HAD CALLED IN CHARGE ISOM ON JUNE 24 TO ASCERTAIN WHY AMB
DAVIS WAS "JUMPING OVER BURUNDI". (HE HAD GOTTEN IDEA, OF
WHICH HE WAS DISABUSED, THAT AMB DAVIS WAS GOING FROM RWANDA
TO ZAIRE.) CHARGE TOLD MANGONA THAT SINCE DUPUTY ASST SECY JAMES
HAD BEEN HIGH LEVEL US VISITOR TO BUJUMBURA IN MARCH, AMB
DAVIS WAS STOPPING IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

ON JUNE 27 I CALLED ON MANGONA NOT ONLY TO REITERATE
POINTS MADE BY DCM, BUT ALSO TO CHIDE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT FOR
AN APPARENT LACK OF SERIOUSNESS IN PURSUING BETTER RELATIONS
WITH U.S. I NOTED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH AMB DAVIS WAS
VISITING ALL HAD SOME ACTIVE BILATERAL PROGRAM WITH U.S., BUT
BURUNDI HAD NEVER RESPONDED TO PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER OFFER LAST
DECEMBER AND HAD DRAGGED ITS FEET ON OTHER SMALL PROJECTS.
MEANWHILE, BURUNDI GOVERNMENT TOLD US IT HOPED FOR AMERICAN SUPPORT
IN GETTING WORLD BANK LOAN AND EX-IM CREDITS FOR FUTURE NICKEL
PROJECT, HOWEVER, AT SAME TIME, THE ONLY NEWSPAPER OF ITS
SINGLE PARTY CONTINUED TO PUBLISH ABUSIVE ARTICLES ABOUT U.S.
FOREIGN POLICY, WHILE NO OTHER COUNTRY WAS CRITICIZED
AT ALL. WHILE I WAS CONTINUING TO PUSH FOR MORE EFFECTIVE
INTERACTION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES (INCLUDING SUMMER INTERN
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PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00476 280638Z

EFFORT TO STUDY BURUNDI AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS), IF FELT STRONG

NEED FOR MORE PURPOSEFULNESS AND EFFORT ON PART OF GRB.
MANGAONA WAS HIGHLY DEFENSIVE THROUGHOUT, AND TOOK CAREFUL
NOTES OF SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS, WITH PROMISE THAT HE WOULD TRACK
DOWN THE PROBLEMS AND SEEK TO IRON THEM OUT. HE INSISTED THAT BURUND
I

WAS NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT ITINERARY OF AMB DAVIS, LATTER WAS
BEST JUDGE OF HOW HIS LIMITED TIME BOULD BE SPENT MOST PROFITABLY,
HOWEVER, BURUNDI WAS NOT ANTI-AMERICAN AND HAD NOTHING BUT HOPES
FOR CLOSER RELATIONSHIP IN FUTURE. IF WEALTHY AND STRONG
COUNTRIES HAD AN OBLIGATION TO HELP THE POOR AND THE WEAK, THE
LATTER ALSO HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THEIR
BENEFACTORS. HE ONLY WISHED THAT A SUPERPOWER LIKE THE U.S.
WOULD DO MORE FOR BURUNDI; PERHAPS THE NICKEL DEVELOPMENT
COULD BE A NEW START.

COMMENT. ALTHOUGH I DONT KNOW HOW
WIDELY MANGONA WILL SPREAD MY MESSAGE, HE WILL SURELY
INFORM FONMIN. OUR REVIEW OF RELATIONSHIPS WAS INFORMAL BUT
QUITE POINTED, AND I TRIED TO MAKE THE POINT THAT THE GRB MUST
UNDERSTAND HOW ITS DEALINGS WITH THE U.S. CANNOT BE COMPARTMENTED
BUT MUST BE APPROACHED AS AN INTERCONNECTED SUBJECT:. IN OTHER
WORDS, THE GRB CANNOT PICK AND CHOOSE WHAT IT WANTS FROM US
WITHOUT CONSIDERING AMERICAN INTERESTS AND SENSITIVITIES.
MARK

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